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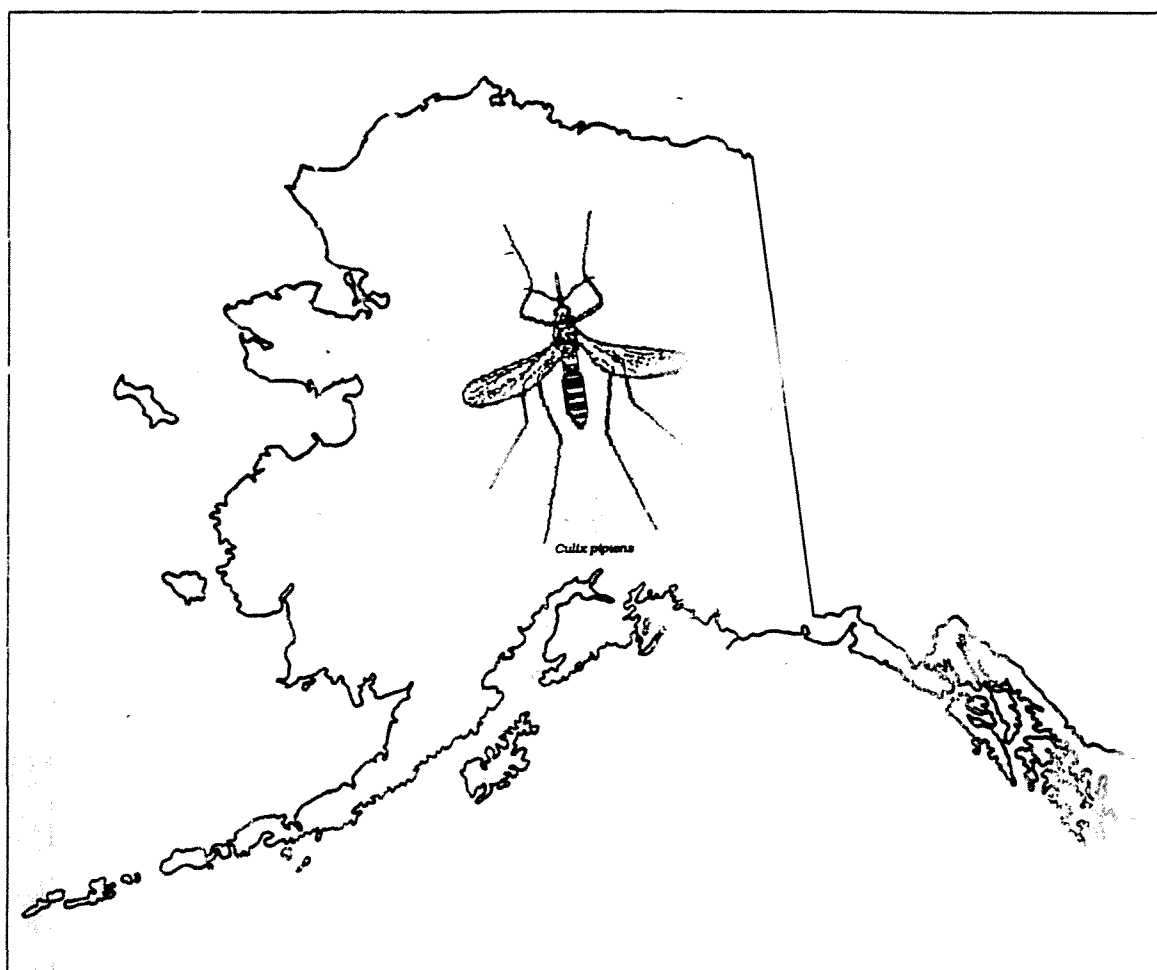
Bureau of Land Management
Alaska State Office
Division of Lands and Renewable Resources

October 1990

Riparian Area Management

A General Strategy to Move into the Next Century

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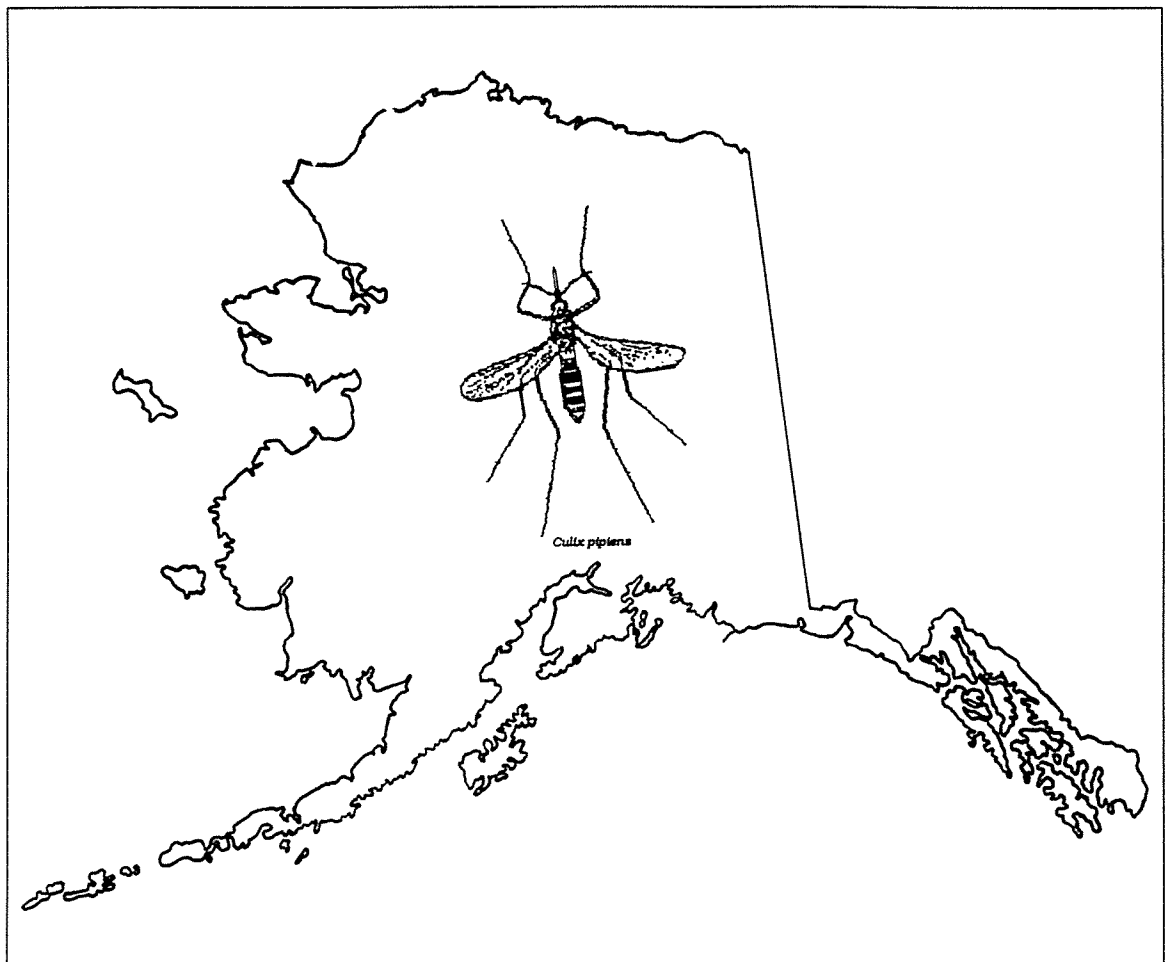
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Riparian Area Management

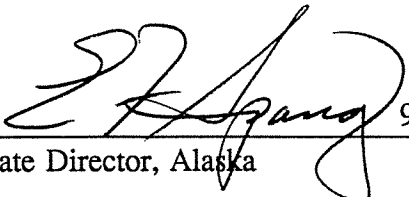
A General Strategy to Move into the Next Century



DEC 8 1990

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

ALASKA
RIPARIAN AREA MANAGEMENT
STRATEGY


9/12/90
State Director, Alaska

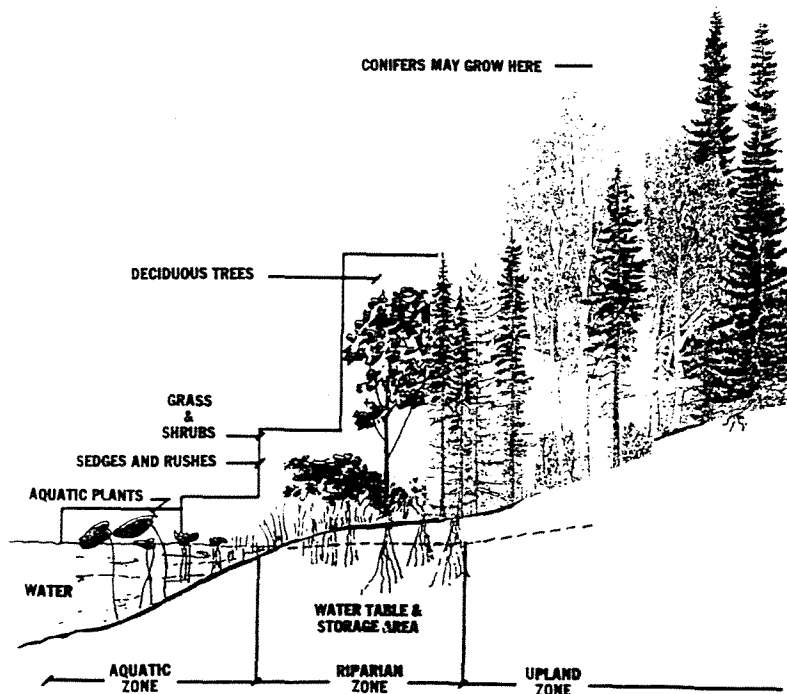


Summary

The Bureau of Land Management in Alaska (BLM-Alaska) manages more than 20 million acres of riparian areas which is about 96% of the BLM national total. Most of this riparian area in Alaska is in good condition, although some suffers drastically because of past recreation activities, mining practices or road building. Some continuing impacts are caused by placer mining, fire control activities or other stream-side land uses.

The overall goal of this riparian area management strategy is to manage riparian resources and maintain their long-term productivity. Initial efforts will be to inventory and evaluate all riparian areas on public lands, starting in areas that have been impacted, those that have a high potential to be impacted, or areas of national significance such as National Wild and Scenic River Systems. Those areas that have been damaged through past development, neglect or abuse will be restored as near as feasible to pre-disturbance productivity.





Introduction

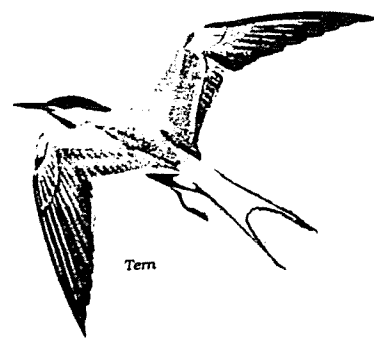
The U.S. Bureau of Land Management in Alaska places a high priority on the management and restoration of riparian systems. Amelioration of riparian areas impacted by surface disturbing activities (such as placer mining, road building, gravel extraction and use of off-road-vehicles) will be a focal point of resource management priorities well into the next century. Among land managers in Alaska, BLM is striving to increase the pace for improved management of riparian and associated resources (See Recreation 2000 and Fish and Wildlife 2000).

Wetlands are lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. Wetlands include streambanks, marshes, shallows, swamps, muskegs, lake bogs, wet meadows, estuarine areas, and riparian areas. Riparian areas are wetlands that are transitional between permanently saturated wetlands and upland areas. These areas have vegetation or physical characteristics reflective of permanent water influence. Riparian areas are those unique zones that border streams, springs, bogs, wet meadows, lakes and ponds. These zones are identified with hydrophytic vegetation that grows in nonhydric (moist but not wet) soils. Where the active layer over permafrost is shallow, the riparian areas are more extensive.

Characteristically, riparian areas display a greater diversity of vegetation and wildlife than adjoining ecosystems. Healthy riparian systems filter and purify water as it moves through the riparian zone, reduce sediment loads and support soil stability. They provide micro-climate moderation when contrasted to extremes in adjacent areas, and contribute to groundwater recharge and base flow.

The natural resources there, the aesthetic values associated with the proximity of water, and the encroachment of upland and water-based activities including easy access and traditional travel ways make riparian zones particularly attractive to humans.

There are many interests in public lands that involve riparian values. Rights-of-way (roads, transmission lines, pipelines) course parallel to or cross streams and other riparian areas. Personal subsistence rights including fishing, hunting and berry picking overlap on riparian areas on all public lands in Alaska. Mining claims for placer gold occur in areas with riparian resources; common methods of removing placer values include turning the valley or floodplain upside down with nearly total destruction of riparian values. Free-use and material sales often occur in riparian areas.





Porcupine

The State of Alaska is responsible for submerged land under navigable waters through public lands in Alaska. All of these state and private interests complicate management of riparian areas - consider a mining claim in a congressionally designated wild and scenic river; a private party operates the mine, the State manages the submerged lands, and the federal government and State jointly manage the water.

Riparian zones possess an upstream-downstream continuity and a land-water interface. Thus, events and activities in riparian zones can have impacts that extend far beyond the immediate area of activity. Conflicts have arisen among a variety of special interests over what is considered appropriate riparian management. The BLM Director has issued the Bureau riparian policy statement (See Appendix A) that emphasizes the multiple values and multiple program responsibilities for riparian management. This policy recently was reaffirmed by the Alaska State Director (See Appendix B).

Riparian resources on public lands in Alaska are managed by applying the Bureau policy in long-term and interim strategies. Long-term strategy includes consideration of riparian resource management in the planning system through new resource management plans, amendments, revisions, and development and implementation of activity plans. Interim strategy deals with actions affecting riparian areas insufficiently inventoried or not covered by plans.

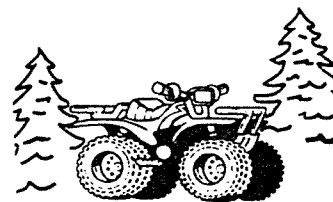
Status

About one-third of the total public lands that BLM manages in the United States is in Alaska. Much (about 20 million acres) of the public lands in Alaska is riparian, most of which remains in good condition. However, riparian resources in Alaska have been and are increasingly being impacted by surface disturbing activities.

Resource management plans currently designate areas open, limited, or closed to off-road-vehicles (ORVs). Prior to these designations, some areas were damaged by ORVs and in need of erosion control and restoration work. Human use of river corridors, such as recreational and subsistence uses also are impacting these riparian areas. Management of riparian values must be included in resource management plans.

Regulations (43 CFR 3809) require reclamation of placer mining sites with surface disturbance that has occurred since 1981. Currently, mining plans of operations include specifications dealing with limiting surface disturbance, erosion control, and revegetation. At the time of plan approval additional requirements for mitigating impacts of mining are stipulated.

Inventory of riparian resources in Alaska is in its early stages. There has been a small amount of field inventory associated with work on other resources such as fish habitat. Also, some remote sensing



ORV

(satellite imagery analysis, etc.) studies of waterfowl habitat have provided riparian inventory information. Most of the data on miles and acreages of riparian resources were taken from surface water representations displayed on U.S.G.S. 1:250,000 scale topographic maps (See table 1).

Management of riparian areas is coordinated with other BLM subactivity programs. Currently in BLM-Alaska, there is no specialist devoting full-time to riparian resources management. Each specialist dealing with riparian resources has other primary duties with riparian being an associated function. This emphasizes the need for integrated program management. Considering the large riparian acreage, the activities and resources that occur in riparian areas, and

the many impacted riparian areas that need rehabilitation work, the program is severely underfunded (See tables 2 and 3).

There is inadequate funding for workmonths to oversee and manage the needed work on riparian resources. Operation support (including travel) is too limiting to provide for sufficient field work. Operational money is insufficient to keep pace with public use of riparian areas; the rate of restoration work continues to be exceeded by impacts on riparian resources through public use.

The other BLM subactivities contribute to the riparian program. Note above the involvement of planning (4410), recreation (4333), soil, water and air (4340), fish and wildlife (4350), mining law administration (4130), and remote sensing (4540).

Table 1. Current Riparian Resource Status

<u>Total Riparian Area¹</u>		<u>Riparian Area in Activity Plans²</u>		<u>Riparian Area Meeting or Not Meeting Objectives</u>					
<u>Miles</u> <u>(streams)</u>	<u>Acre (lakes</u> <u>marshes, etc.)</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Acre</u>	<u>Meeting</u> <u>Objectives³</u>		<u>Not Meeting</u> <u>Objectives</u>		<u>Unknown</u>	
				<u>Miles</u>	<u>Acre</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Acre</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Acre</u>
133,000	22,200,000	13,200	1,400,000	12,900	1,280,000	350	120,000	120,000	20,800,000
<p>1. Estimate of the total amount of riparian areas on public lands in Alaska associated with <u>streams (in miles)</u> and <u>lakes, ponds, marshes (in acres)</u>. Most of these estimates are based on areas bordering surface water shown 1:250,000 scale U.S.G.S. topographic maps. As an improved inventory process is completed these estimates will be updated; it is expected acreages will be significantly higher.</p> <p>2. Estimate of riparian areas currently included in approved activity plans (AMPs, HMPs, etc.) <u>which have riparian objectives</u>.</p> <p>3. Of the total riparian areas on public lands in Alaska, these are estimates of the amounts meeting riparian objectives, most of the rest probably meets the objectives too, but has not been inventoried so it is included in the unknown column.</p>									

Table 2 Present Riparian Program Status

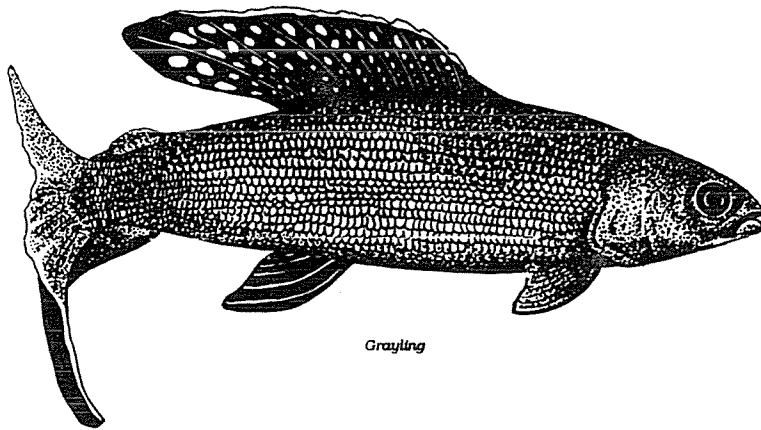
Fiscal Year	Inventory ¹		Activity Plan Prep. and Revision ²		Project Development ³		Project Maintenance ⁴		Monitoring ⁵	
	\$	Miles/Acres	\$	Plans	\$	Plans	\$	Plans	\$	Plans
1989	157,000	8400/177,000	10,000	1	16,500	1			36,500	7
1990	110,000	1800/300,000			64,000	1			30,000	11

1. Estimate of miles (streams) and acres (lakes, ponds, marshes) of inventory primarily related to riparian areas. Estimate of proportion of inventory costs related to riparian areas.
2. Estimate of the number of activity plans (HMPs, AMPs, etc) prepared or revised to incorporate riparian objectives. Estimate of plan revision/preparation costs related to riparian areas.
3. Estimate of number of projects developed primarily to meet riparian objectives. Estimate of proportion of project costs related to riparian objectives.
4. Estimate of number of riparian projects maintained. Estimate of proportion of maintenance costs related to riparian objectives.
5. Estimate of number of plans monitored (AMPs, HMPs, etc.) that include riparian objectives. Estimate of costs associated with monitoring for riparian objectives.

Table 3 Five-Year Needs Assessment¹

Fiscal Year	Inventory ²		Activity Plan Prep. and Revision ³		Project Development ⁴		Project Maintenance ⁵		Monitoring ⁶	
	\$	Miles/Acres	\$	Plans	\$	Plans	\$	Plans	\$	Plans
91-95	610,000	6100/140,000	400,000	15	2,224,000	18	300,000	14	600,000	20

1. These needs are based on current and anticipated plans; it is expected that in the latter part of this five-year period, more plans will be approved and needs data will be updated.
2. Estimate of miles (streams) and acres (lakes, ponds, marshes) of inventory primarily related to riparian areas. Estimate of proportion of inventory costs related to riparian areas.
3. Estimate of the number of activity plans (HMPs, AMPs, etc) to be prepared or revised to incorporate riparian objectives. Estimate of plan revision/preparation costs related to riparian areas.
4. Estimate of number of projects to be developed primarily to meet riparian objectives. Estimate of proportion of project costs related to riparian objectives.
5. Estimate of number of riparian related projects to be maintained. Estimate of proportion of maintenance costs related to riparian objectives.
6. Estimate of number of plans to be monitored (AMPs, HMPs, etc.) that include riparian objectives. Estimate of costs associated with monitoring for riparian objectives.



Grayling

Goals

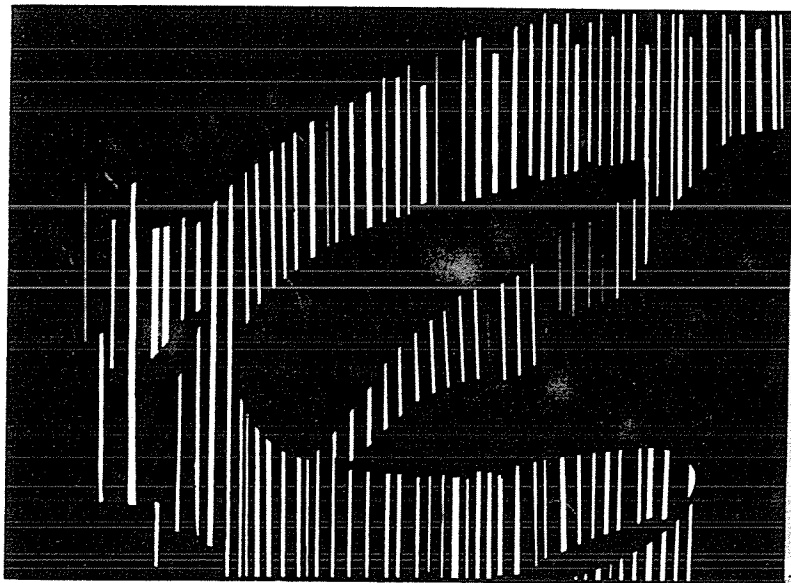
The goals of this riparian resources management program are to:

1. Maintain nondisturbed riparian areas in a healthy, productive condition for maximum long-term, multiple-use benefits and values.
2. Restore or improve disturbed riparian areas and adjacent upland areas to maximize vegetation, and habitat production and improve water quality to meet or exceed state water quality standards.
3. Include appropriate riparian resource management considerations in all resource management plans, amendments, revisions and activity plans.
4. Monitor and evaluate land use activities and their effects on riparian values. Revise management plans and land use authorizations to include site-specific riparian objectives to be met.
5. Provide adequate training for bureau personnel and promote

educational opportunities for public land users so everyone has an understanding of riparian values.

6. Encourage and aid individuals and groups wishing to volunteer time and labor to enhance riparian areas.
7. Encourage private landowners, interested public and organizations to work with appropriate government agencies in the maintenance and restoration of riparian zones.
8. Retain riparian areas in public ownership unless disposal would be in the public interest, as determined through the land use planning process.
9. Identify, encourage, and support research and studies needed to ensure that riparian area management objectives can be properly defined and met.
10. Have the Alaska riparian enhancement program in place by 2000 to develop conditions so natural processes restore damaged areas.





"...aurora borealis..."

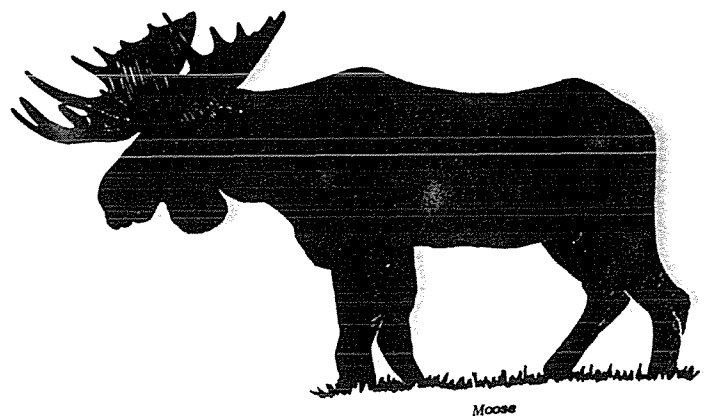
Planned Actions

1. Implementation of riparian resource management on public lands in Alaska will start with developing a clear understanding of what areas will be included in the category of riparian. This will include a field workshop in Alaska with the local district staffs meeting with other riparian specialists. The Phoenix Training Center training course 1737-1 may be conducted in Alaska. New employee training and field workshops will be provided regularly so all program staff will be current.
2. An inventory of riparian areas will be conducted including information on location, size of areas, characteristics and condition of riparian resources with special attention to needs for reclamation. The general status of the watershed also will be described. All riparian sites will be assessed for impacts on resources due to surface disturbance activities. Sites will be ranked in order of potential reclamation values. Following this evaluation, schedules will be developed for conducting reclamation of impacted

riparian resources. Complete restoration and enhancement of the watershed including the riparian areas, shall be implemented. Emphasis will be placed on managing riparian areas to meet nonpoint source pollution control mandates (See Water Quality Act of 1987).

This action includes the following tasks:

- a. Determine, automate and map the number of miles and acres of stream and lake shore riparian areas by 1994.
 - b. Determine the miles and acres of Riparian areas on BLM administered lands needing restoration and/or special management (amount and type) by 1995.
 - c. Initiate needed treatment on 10% of the miles of abandoned placer mined streams by 1995.
3. Concurrently, all land use plans will be reviewed for adequacy of management for riparian resources.





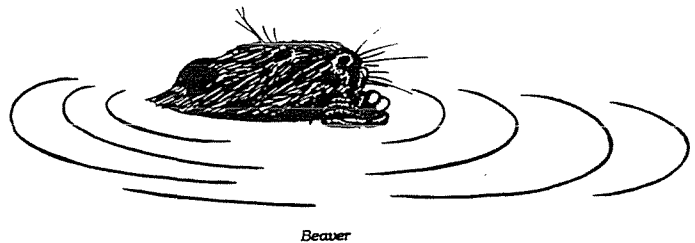
Cotton Grass

Those plans determined to be inadequate shall be amended or revised to include management of riparian resources.

4. Through the BLM planning process, all new resource management plans, activity plans, and plans of operations shall include decisions and appropriate processes for management of riparian resources (See Manual, Section 1737.4).
5. All land use shall be monitored for compliance with plans and for impacts on riparian resources. Monitoring results will be evaluated to determine what changes need to be made for future management of riparian resources. Plans shall be amended or revised to accommodate the needed changes. Riparian resource determinations shall be made in resource management plans and site specific activity plans as required by the Supplemental Program Guidance-Manual Sections 1622.1 and 1624 (SPG).
6. Riparian areas with sensitive features or special values shall be considered for designation as Areas

of Critical Environmental Concern or Research Natural Areas through the planning process (See Manual 1613 and 1623.3 and 43 CFR 1610.7-2).

7. The necessary stipulations will be incorporated in land use authorizations and contracts to ensure that riparian management objectives in land use and activity plans are met.
8. All actions and mitigating measures shall be monitored and records of results shall be maintained. This monitoring and recordkeeping will be continued over a long time in control areas for verification of appropriateness of decisions and processes for managing riparian areas. The results are to be evaluated collectively by the resource specialists and riparian coordinators to ensure that stipulations are meeting their intended purpose. If they are not, management actions and stipulations shall be adjusted to ensure that riparian resource management objectives are met.



Coordination

Riparian area values and functions influence many other programs with either compatible or conflicting interests. Close coordination across these programs therefore is necessary to achieve riparian resource management objectives. Coordination among programs is required not only to analyze land use actions, but for other activities including inventory, monitoring, and budget preparations. The bureau's role in implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan is outlined in Fish and Wildlife 2000, Alaska. This is presented more specifically in Waterfowl Habitat Management on Public Lands, A Strategy for the Future. Coordination among other appropriate programs will continue.

The State Office and each District Office will designate a person responsible for riparian resource program coordination. This person will coordinate riparian resource related actions and activities with other programs that may be affected.

There will be consultation with public and private organizations, other federal and state agencies, and colleges and universities to exchange knowledge, experience, and technology in the maintenance, restoration, and improvement of riparian areas. The understanding and involvement of all interested parties generates commitment and accountability and is essential to successful riparian management.

Benefits

Benefits of optimum riparian area management include those listed below.

- Stable stream channels and flows.
- Decreased erosion; i.e. sediment production, transport and deposition.
- Increased sediment filtration and storage.
- Improved water quality.
- Better visual resources.
- Superior recreation values and increased opportunities.
- Quality fish and wildlife habitat.
- Diverse biological values.
- Less disturbance of thaw-unstable permafrost soils.

Many of these benefits occur concurrently as a result of proper riparian management. With continued implementation of activity plans with riparian objectives and with continued management support of those plans, these benefits will accrue to public lands throughout Alaska.



"...fishing from floating inflatable raft..."

Strategy Evaluation

Most riparian resources on public lands in Alaska are in good condition and exhibit late seral to climax communities.

However, many miles of stream and large acreages of riparian resources have been impacted by surface disturbing activities and require amelioration or reclamation work. By September 15 of each year, the District Manager will report to the State Director the riparian work accomplished during that year. The reported work shall include: (a) miles or acres of riparian areas inventoried; (b) plans (resource management plans, amendments, revisions, activity plans, mining plans of operations, etc.) and permit applications (rights-of-

way, gravel sales and free-use, recreation use, etc.) writing and review; (c) type and amount of rehabilitation work; and (d) number of sites and frequency of monitoring of riparian resource condition or status of rehabilitation results. The report shall be automated and mapped. (i.e., the information should be retrievable by telecommunications as tables and maps). See Handbook H-6601-1 or SITEFORM.

Annually, all district and state resource specialists and riparian coordinators shall review and analyze results of the riparian resource management on public lands in Alaska and recommend needed changes in this strategy.



"...old dredge tailings..."

Program Development

Tables 3 and 4 include information on needs assessment and staffing. Needs in Table 3 are based on current and anticipated plans; it is expected that in the latter part of the five-year period more plans will be approved and needs and staffing data will be updated.

Reclamation can be expensive for such disturbances as placer mines and ORV trails. Sometimes ORV trails erode within riparian areas or produce sediment which is transported to riparian areas. In this case restoration may include moving the trail out of the eroding area and to soils that are more stable. Then the eroded areas should be treated for erosion control and revegetation. Reclamation of free-use material sites or old placer mine sites usually needs more extensive work. Reestablishment of a stable stream channel and recontouring huge tailings piles need to precede revegetation of mine sites. These are high cost activities in Alaska (as compared to changing the grazing schedule on riparian areas in other states). Even relocating a road from a riparian area in Alaska can be costly. Finding a new, suitable alignment; redesigning and construction of the new road and removal of the old road can be expensive, especially in areas of thaw-unstable soils.



Field work, coordination and management of riparian resources on public lands in Alaska require a specialist in each of the 5 districts plus one in the State Office for a total of \$827,000 per year including workmonths, operations, and training. Riparian training also should be provided for other specialists such as realty and minerals. Needs and staffing include special equipment, materials, and talents for unique work such as interpreting specific types of aerial photographs, "hi-tech" geoprocessing, etc.

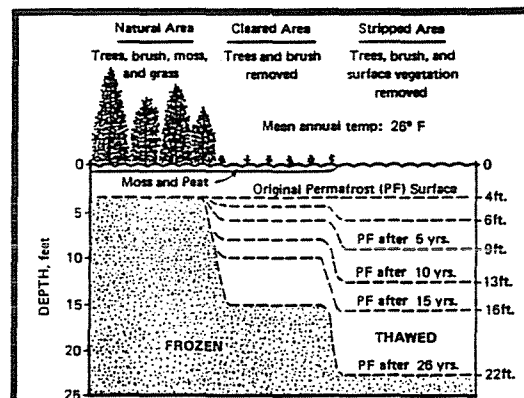


Table 4. Staffing and Program Funding Distribution

<u>Table 4. Staffing and Program Funding Distribution</u>		
<u>Subactivity</u>	<u>% of Funding Needed ¹</u>	<u>Additional Positions and Skills ²</u>
4130	5	One additional full-time position is needed in each of five districts including: wildlife biologist (1), soil scientists (2), and hydrologists (2).
4320	5	
4333	5	
4340	50	
4350	35	
Majority of the work will be done by seasonal and temporary personnel such as technicians, SCAs, volunteers, and coop students.		

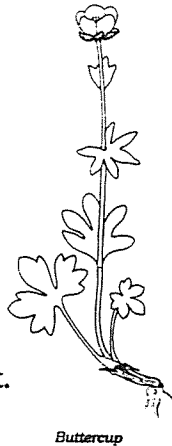
1.	Of the total 5-year funding needs identified in Table 3, these are estimates of the percentage of funding required by subactivity.
2.	Estimate of the number of additional positions by skill type needed to implement the Five-Year Riparian Plan.



Carex

Authority

Following are a few laws and executive orders related to riparian area management.



A. Major Legislation

1. National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-47; 83 Stat. 852; P.L. 91-190).

- a. Encourages productive and harmonious relationships between man and his environment and an enriched understanding of ecological systems and natural processes important to the Nation.
 - b. Requires preparation of detailed statements on environmental impacts of proposed major Federal actions that significantly impact the quality of the human environment.
 - c. Directs Federal agencies to initiate and use ecological information in the planning and development of resources-oriented projects.
2. Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.; 90 Stat. 2743; P.L. 94-579).
- a. Requires the development and maintenance of land use plans

- b. Identifies fish and wildlife development and utilization, mineral exploration and production, rights-of-way, outdoor recreation, and timber production as principal or major land uses.
- c. Requires that "the public lands be managed in a manner that will protect the quality of . . . ecological, environmental . . . water resource, and . . . that, where appropriate, will preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural condition and that will provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife.
- d. Authorizes the designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern to protect and prevent irreparable damage to fish and wildlife, and other resources.
- e. Authorizes investigations, studies, and experiments involving the improvement, management, use, and protection of the public lands and their resources.
- f. Requires the compliance with State and Federal water pollution standards.

3. Water Quality Act of 1987, as amended from the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act) of 1977 (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.; 91 Stat. 1566-1611; P.L. 95-217).

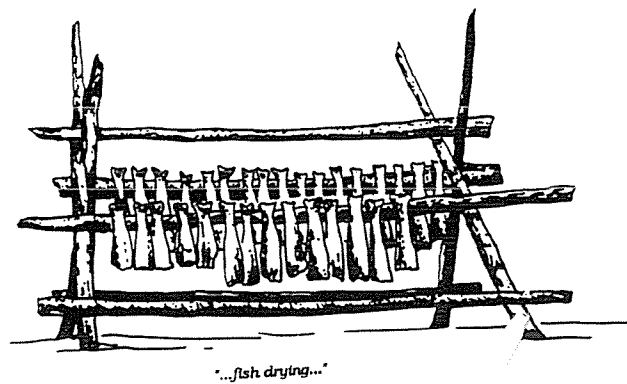
- a. The objective of this act is to restore and maintain "... the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's water ..." at a level of quality which provides protection for fish, shellfish, wildlife, and recreational use.
- b. Requires permits for certain activities in navigable waters.
- c. Requires States to assess their rivers, streams, and lakes and to develop nonpoint source management programs to control and reduce specific nonpoint sources of pollution.
- d. Authorizes funds to help State and local entities to manage nonpoint sources of pollution.
- e. Requires in section 319, Nonpoint Source Management Program, that the Governor of each State prepare and submit to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for approval, a management program which each State proposes to implement for controlling pollution added from nonpoint sources.

B. Executive Orders (EO)

1. EO 11988 of 1977 (Floodplain management as amended by Executive Order 12148). Each Federal agency is to take action to avoid, to the extent possible, the long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains. Agencies are further required to avoid direct or indirect support of floodplain development whenever there is a practicable alternative. Each agency shall provide leadership and shall take action to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains in carrying out its responsibilities for acquiring, managing, and disposing of Federal lands and facilities.
2. EO 11990, May 24, 1977 (Protection of Wetlands). This EO directs Federal agencies to take action to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial value of wetlands in carrying out programs affecting land use. All federally initiated, financed, or permitted construction projects in wetlands must include all practicable measures to minimize adverse impacts. This requires that all leases, rights-of-way, easements, and disposals involving Federal wetlands must contain restrictions to uses by the grantee which are consistent with Federal, State, and local wetland regulations.

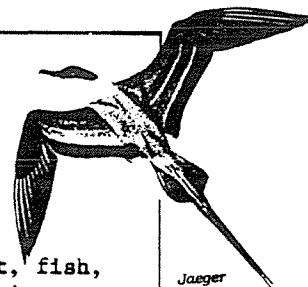


Redpoll



APPENDIX A

Bureau of Land Management Riparian Area Management Policy



BACKGROUND

Riparian areas are unique and among the most productive and important ecosystems, comprising approximately 1 percent of the public lands. Characteristically, riparian areas display a greater diversity of plant, fish, wildlife, and other animal species and vegetation structure than adjoining ecosystems. Healthy riparian systems filter and purify water as it moves through the riparian zone, reduce sediment loads and enhance soil stability, provide micro-climate moderation when contrasted to extremes in adjacent areas, and contribute to groundwater recharge and base flow.

DEFINITIONS

Riparian Area - an area of land directly influenced by permanent water. It has visible vegetation or physical characteristics reflective of permanent water influence. Lake shores and stream banks are typical riparian areas. Excluded are such sites as ephemeral streams or washes that do not exhibit the presence of vegetation dependent upon free water in the soil.

Riparian Area-Dependent Resources - resources such as water, vegetation, fish, and certain wildlife that owe their existence to the riparian area.

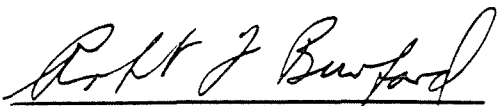
OBJECTIVE

The objective of riparian area management is to maintain, restore, or improve riparian values to achieve a healthy and productive ecological condition for maximum long-term benefits.

POLICY STATEMENTS

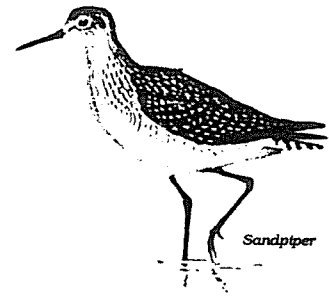
In order to meet the foregoing objective, the Bureau will to the extent practical:

- o Achieve riparian area improvement and maintenance objectives through the management of existing uses wherever feasible.
- o Ensure that new resource management plans and activity plans, and existing plans when revised, recognize the importance of riparian values, and initiate management to maintain, restore, or improve them.
- o Prescribe management for riparian values that is based upon site-specific characteristics and settings.
- o Give special attention to monitoring and evaluating management activities in riparian areas and revise management practices where site-specific objectives are not being met.
- o Cooperate with and encourage the involvement of interested Federal, State, and local governments and private parties to share information, implement management, coordinate activities, and provide education on the value, productivity, and management of riparian areas.
- o Retain riparian areas in public ownership unless disposal would be in the public interest, as determined in the land use planning system.
- o Identify, encourage, and support research and studies needed to ensure that riparian area management objectives can be properly defined and met.


Director, Bureau of Land Management

JAN 22 1987
Date

APPENDIX B
Bureau of Land Management
Alaska State Office
Riparian Area Management Policy



BACKGROUND

Riparian areas are among the most productive and important ecosystems, comprising approximately 20 percent of the Public Lands in Alaska. Characteristically, riparian areas display a greater diversity of plant and animal life, with more diverse and complex vegetative communities than adjoining ecosystems. Riparian areas play an important role maintaining biological diversity, filter and purify water as it moves through the riparian zone, reduce sediment loads and enhance soil stability. They also provide micro-climate moderation when contrasted to extremes in adjacent areas, and contribute to groundwater recharge and base flow.

DEFINITIONS

Riparian Area - Riparian areas make up a form of wetland transition between permanently saturated wetlands and upland areas. Riparian areas are those unique zones that border streams, springs, bogs, wet meadows, lakes and ponds. These zones are identified with hydrophytic vegetation that grows in nonhydryc (moist but not wet) soils.

Riparian Area-Dependent Resources - Virtually all living resources, such as wildlife and fish, depend to some extent on riparian zone vegetative associations and characteristics for their well-being. These same riparian zone associations and characteristics are also important in the determination of stream and lake morphology and related water quantity and quality. In addition, human uses, such as recreation, subsistence, and occupancy are directly affected by riparian area conditions.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of riparian area management is to maintain, restore, or improve riparian values to achieve healthy and productive conditions for maximum long-term benefits and assured resource diversity.

POLICY STATEMENTS

In order to meet the foregoing objective, BLM-Alaska will, to the extent practicable and consistent with the Alaska Riparian Area Management Strategy:

- Achieve riparian area improvement and maintenance objectives through the management of existing uses.
- Ensure that land use plans (resource management plans and management framework plans) and activity plans recognize the importance of riparian values and initiate management to maintain, restore, or improve those values.

- Prescribe management for riparian values based upon site-specific characteristics and settings.
- With all associated resources in an integrated effort, include special attention to monitoring and evaluating management and restoration activities in riparian areas and revise management practices where site-specific objectives are not being met.
- Cooperate with and encourage the involvement of interested Federal, State, and local government, private parties and organizations to share information, implement management, coordinate and prioritize activities, and provide education on the value, productivity, and integrated management of riparian areas. In partnership with these groups, implement a state-wide program to inventory, evaluate, and monitor key riparian areas.
- Retain riparian areas in public ownership unless disposal would be in the public interest, as determined through the land use planning process.
- Identify, encourage, and support research and studies needed to ensure that riparian area management objectives can be properly defined and met.

Lester K. Rosenkrance
 ACTING State Director, Alaska

September 26, 1989
 Date



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BLM Mission Statement

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for the balanced management of the public lands and resources and their various values so that they are considered in a combination that will best serve the needs of the American people. Management is based upon the principles of multiple-use and sustained yield; a combination of uses that takes into account the long term needs of future generations for renewable and non-renewable resources. These resources include recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, fish and wildlife, wilderness, and natural, scientific and cultural values.